CLAIMS

1. A grading apparatus for grading objects such as fish or shrimp in respect of
their size, comprising a plurality of juxtaposed endless conveyor belts (27),
5   wherein the width (9) separating adjacent conveyor belts is larger at the
unloading end (29) than at the loading end (28) of the belts,
each conveyor belt (27) having a cross-section with sloping sides such that in
between each adjacent pair of belts is formed a sorting channel with
substantially continuous sloping sides (2), each side being at an angle with
10   respect to the axis of the belt (8) in the range of about 70-85°,
wherein each belt comprises a plurality of hinged segments forming said
substantially continuous sloping sides, each of said hinged segments (1) has
an open cleft (3) on the ridge between the sloping sides.

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2. The grading apparatus of claim 1, wherein each belt is a continuous elastic
belt.

20   3. The grading apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the continuously sloping
sides (2) has an angle (8) in the range of about 70-80°.

4. The grading apparatus of claim 3, wherein each of the continuously sloping
25   sides (2) has an angle (8) in the range of about 75-80°.

5. The grading apparatus of claim 3, wherein each of the continuously sloping
sides (2) has an angle (8) of about 80°.
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6. The grading apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cleft (3) has a width in the
range of about 3-10 mm.

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7. The grading apparatus of claim 1, further comprising guiding means (21-24)
arranged by the loading end (28) of the conveyor belts (27) for guiding

objects to be graded to the channels in between adjacent belts and away from ridges and/or clefts on top of said hinged segments.

8. The use of an apparatus of any of claims 1-7 for the size grading of items.

9. The use of claim 8, wherein the items are selected from the group consisting of peeled or unpeeled shrimp tails, lobster tails, fish including capelin, sardine, herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, menhaden, anchovy, blue whiting, ocean perch, cod, pollock, haddock, oysters, clams and mussels.